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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

Washington, D. C.

April 10, 1950

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

"How did you hear about the program of the Graduate School?" That question was asked of all students registering for courses at the beginning of the current Spring Semester. The 2,037 students completing the questionnaire reported that: 53% learned through the schedule of classes; 22 1/2% through a former student; 12% through bulletin board posters; 8% through their supervisor; 2 1/2% through a special announcement; and 2% through newspapers. More than 70% reported that the schedules of classes were being routed in their places of employment.

The survey's results will be useful in improving methods of informing Federal workers and others of GS courses available to them.

Is There a Demographer in our Midst?

The answer, fortunately, is that there are several hundred of them, in the Census Bureau and in the leading universities and colleges of the Nation. One of their representatives will be contacting you in this mid-century year, 1950, to help complete the 17th Decennial Population Census. Every decade since 1790 the United States has collected vital, social, and economic statistics so essential to the demographers. It is their job to analyze and interpret this mass of data for the good of the rest of society.

While the United States has the longest record for taking periodic inventories of its people by means of a census, other countries have also had censuses. In 1950, all countries of the world are being urged to take censuses and many of them will be doing so. The Population Commission and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the Inter-American Statistical Institute and certain other nonofficial societies are prominent among those forces urging the world census. For its part in the assimilation of this unusual collection of data GS has expanded its courses on Population and at the same time reorganized them so that they may be carried for credit in either the Social Sciences or Mathematics and Statistics Departments. A new offering for the Fall of 1950 is "Population of the World in Relation to Resources", a broad, nontech-

nical course for specialists in other fields who have a general interest in population studies. The emphasis of this course will be on a balanced interpretation of the historic growth and distribution of the world's population--somewhere on the solid ground between the theories of those who speak direly of too many or too few people. Course reorganization has been planned largely by Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Chairman, Division of Human Relations, Department of Social Sciences, and by the instructors of the population courses in this Department and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics--Margaret J. Hagood, Dr. Irene B. Taeuber and Mr. Jacob S. Siegel.

GS Represented in Middle East Discussions

Dr. Afif Tannous (FAR), will serve as GS's representative at the Fifty-fourth annual meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science meeting to be held in Philadelphia April 13 and 14. A foremost authority on Middle Eastern economic affairs, and a member of the Academy, Dr. Tannous has been requested by its President, Ernest Minor Patterson, to participate in discussions of technical aid to foreign countries. This is a part of the Conference's central theme "Point Four: Too Much or Too Little?" Dr. Tannous has taught general survey courses and Agricultural Economics of the Middle East at GS.

With the Departmental Committees

Technology -- The Committee on Surveying and Mapping, under the chairmanship of Marshall Wright, is proposing four new courses in Cartography. This development reflects growing needs and demands of Federal employees for courses in basic fundamentals and techniques of map reproduction. Among the new courses are: "Principles and Techniques of Aerial Photographic Interpretation"; "Cartography I, Technical Elements; II, Map Projection; III, Large Scale Maps and IV, Small Scale Maps.

Announcement by several Universities of new degrees to be offered for a course program in Surveying and Mapping or Cartography evidences increasing demand for education in this field.

Mathematics and Statistics--Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics has appointed a committee to review the program of the Department with a view of determining what revisions may be needed. This action has grown out of the recommendations presented at the Departmental Committee meeting of February 20, by two groups appointed to study Articulation of Courses and Courses for Next Year. Earl E. Houseman (BAE) chairs a new committee hard at work effecting needed program revisions. The action grows out of recommendations presented by two work groups to the Departmental Committee in February. Other members of the committee are: Edward W. Cannon and Churchill Eisenhart of the National Bureau of Standards, and Margaret J. Hagood and Walter A. Hendricks, both of BAE.

Group Health Grows Steadily

From 1,900 participants and 4 doctors in 1937 to 18,091 participants and a staff of 34 doctors and 9 dentists in 1950 is only a statistical

indication of the steady growth of the Group Health Association. This numerical strength and its ensuing financial stability permitted a program maturing in procedure and services. GS is represented in the Association by two GHA trustees -- Drs. Douglas Ensminger, (Ext.), of the Committee on Cooperative Extension Education, and Harold E. Eisele, Assistant Director.

Educators, Not "Educaterers"

In reporting on the Conference on the Preparation of College Teachers recently held in Chicago, N. Paul Hudson, Dean of the Graduate School, Ohio State University, observed "Running through the statements recording the deliberations of three groups is the basic idea that college teachers should have breadth in education, perspective and interest. Training in research was considered an essential part of the preparation of college teachers. The general values to the teacher in learning the principles and ways of thinking in research are substantial. Such training is consistent with the basic idea here advanced not only by its inclusion in the prospective teacher's program but also by the insistence that his investigated subject be broad, the problem be dealt with in broad terms, and the significance of the study be properly explored. If these essentials are practiced, undue specialization is minimized and the future college teacher is the better prepared to educate maturing youth and otherwise be an intellectual leader."

1950 USDA Research Intern Program

Nominations for 17 (of 29 available) internships have been received by the Office of Personnel in connection with the 1950 Research Intern Program. Applications are now under study by the bureaus concerned. Nominations, to date, have come from these institutions: California, Chicago, Harvard, Ohio, Maryland, Mississippi State, North Carolina State and Virginia.

A pamphlet issued in October 1949 described the opportunities available for 1950, the second year of this cooperative program developed jointly with the Land-Grant institutions but open to qualified persons from all institutions. Rhett Y. Winters (ARA) chairs the USDA committee on Land-Grant Internship Cooperation.

Television Has More Normal Appeal

The significant developments and potential of television as a channel for education and training were presented to the USDA Training Council on March 23 by Kenneth M. Gapen, USDA's Assistant Director of Information for Radio and Television and Thomas M. Noone, Jr. of the same staff. Both are leaders of the Office of Information--GS seminars in television.

Reporting on industry expansion generally, and particularly on USDA's 2 years of cooperative RMA research in televised marketing and consumer information, Gapen and Noone offered convincing evidence of TV's effectiveness. In Washington, one short announcement, broadcast without fanfare at 3 PM on two consecutive days, resulted in nearly 1,000 phone

requests for specified information. One announcement of USDA's cookbook "Family Fare" brought in 903 written requests.

For the Nation, Gopen and Noone pointed out that 60 percent of the population is now within television's area--that 102 stations are operating in the United States. Summarizing, they emphasized that television offers a remarkable opportunity to teach methods and ideas--that it utilizes motion, sound, and sight in a combination with more of the normal appeals than any other information medium. In its best application, however, they observed that it should be integrated with other well known information methods.

Books

Fairly new on the book stands is The Art of Readable Writing, (Harper's) by Rudolf Flesch, former GS instructor in the Department of Languages and Literature, and now with the Associated Press and also teaching at New York University. Available on GS's reserve shelves in the Library is The Way To Write, one of Flesch's earlier books. Also on reserve is the GS stacks are some new volumes: Proofreading and Copy-Preparation, by Joseph Lasky; The New Yorker Book of War Pieces (of which the Infantry Journal's Colonel Joseph I. Green says that "nothing remotely approaching the phony" is included); Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy, by Joseph A. Schumpeter; A Measure for Greatness (a short biography of Edward Weston) by David O. Woodbury; French Painting and English Painting, both by A. H. Wilenski; and Pencil Drawing Step-by-Step, by Arthur L. Guphill.

More on Books

"Two serious problems affect the life of every University student abroad: the acute shortage of books and general equipment, the lack of proper food, clothing and medical care. Without health and energy the student cannot concentrate on his work. Without books he cannot learn." Thus UNESCO's Director General Jaime Torres Bodet describes the European academic situation where, for example, at a college in Greece, over 1,000 students have competed for 2-5 copies of each textbook--where, at its reopening in 1947 the University of Amsterdam had only twelve economics textbooks for every 500 students.

Earnestly trying to remedy this situation is CARE, in cooperation with The World Student Service Fund, and the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO.

CARE's drive is primarily for new books or money, which, while involving painful fund-raising, is sensible in its directness and ultimate economy. Luther Evans, Librarian of Congress, has added his voice to urge all educators and colleges and universities to participate in this worthy drive for books, the "tools of reconstruction."

Sincerely,

Levin H. B. Bayle

Director

